

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are presently active. Claim 9 is amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 9 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,603,570 to Asahi; Claims 10-12 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claims 1-8, 13-15 and 17 were allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

Further, Applicants and Applicants' representative gratefully acknowledge the courtesy of a personal interview with Examiner Singh and Supervisory Patent Examiner Williams on September 23, 2005. During the interview, differences between the claimed invention and references cited in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. The Examiners agreed that the cited references do not teach or suggest a storage unit provided in an image processing controlling unit configured to read processing information as described in proposed amendments to Claim 9. The Examiner indicated the proposed amendments would likely place this application in condition for allowance. The agreed upon claim amendments are submitted herein.

Amended Claim 9 is directed to an image processing apparatus that includes, in part, a storage unit provided in an image processing unit, and an entirety controlling unit configured to read processing information stored in the storage unit to monitor the image processing by the image processing unit.

As discussed during the interview, Asahi does not teach or suggest an image processing unit as recited in amended Claim 9. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 9 and claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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